Secrt. II-27—100,206—21-5-52.

Food and Agriculture (195 2) Department.

Ms SERIES.

G.O. No. 1184

1184

Dated 23-7-1952.

[Despatch Abstract.]

CIVIL SUPPLIES – Foodgrains – Revised Food Policy for 1952 – Issue of rice through fair price shops – Existing scale of 7 ozs. per adult per day – Continuance – Ordered – Papers Recorded.

BOARD OF REVENUE (CIVIL SUPPLIES)

SUBJECT.

FOODGRAINS - Control - Revised Policy for 1952 - Issue of rice through Fair price shops - Existing scale of 7 ozs per adult per day - Continuance of - Report.

Board's Ref.100290/KI/52/CS, dated 3.7.52.

From

Sri M.V. Subramanian, I.C.S.,
Commissioner of Civil Supplies,
Chepauk, Madras.

Janab K. Ghulam Mahmood, I.A.S.,
Secretary to the Commissioner of Civil Supplies,
Madras.

Read:
1. G.O.Ms.No.931, Food and Agriculture Department, dated 7.6.52.
2. Government Memo.No.(Confdl.) 35651/A/52-6, dated 10.6.52.
3. Board's Ref.No.100290/KI/52/CS, dated 12.6.52.
4. Reports received from the Collectors of South Arcot, South Kanara, Chittoor, Cuddapah, Madras, Ramanathapuram Visakhapatnam, Salem Madurai, Tanjore, Anantapur, Tiruchirapalli, North Arcot and Tirunelveli.

In para 1 of their Memorandum No.35651/A/52-6, Food and Agriculture dated 10.6.52 the Government have asked for a further report from the Board on the feasibility of reducing the existing scale of 7 ozs of rice ration issued through Fair Price Shops. In its reference third cited (copy enclosed) the Board called for the remarks of the Collectors and the Rationing Officer, Madras on the position of availability and the price of rice in the open market and to express their definite and considered opinion about the continuance or otherwise of the existing scale of 7 ozs rice ration giving full reasons for their recommendations. The Board submits herewith the reports so far received from the Collectors of South Arcot, South Kanara, Chittoor, Cuddapah, Madras, Ramnad, Vizagapatnam, Salem, Madurai, Tanjore, Anantapur, Tiruchy, North Arcot and Tirunelveli for the information of the Government.

2. The Board after examining the reports received from the Collectors submits that except the Collector of Ramanathapuram who recommends the reduction of ration from 7 ozs to 6 ozs from 6.7.52 and from 6 ozs to 5 ozs from 20.8.52 and the Collector of Trichy who recommends the reduction of the rice ration from 7 ozs to 6 ozs in Tiruchirapalli and Pudukottai areas, the other Collectors are not in favour of any reduction. While the Collectors of Anantapur and Madras recommend the continuance of the existing scale till 2.8.52 and to review the position again, the Collectors of South Arcot, South Kanara, Madurai, Tanjore recommend the continuance till the end of October 52. The Collectors of North Arcot and Tirunelveli consider the scale of 7 ozs should continue till the end of September 52. The Collectors of Chittoor, Cuddapah, and Visakhapatnam are of the view that the continuance of the 7 ozs scale is necessary till the position improves. The Collector of Salem suggests that the Fair-price shops may be allowed to issue 7 ozs till January 1953.

3. The Collectors have recommended the continuance of the existing scale for reasons given by them in their reports keeping in view the situation obtaining in their respective districts. It is

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no doubt true that the essence of the decontrol policy lies in the progressive realisation of free market conditions. But facts have to be faced. The leanest months of the year lie ahead, when there will be diminution in stocks of rice everywhere. It will, therefore, be risky to be misled by the illusion of free market rice becoming available everywhere in an abundant measure. On the other hand, the prospects are towards a lessening of ffee market rice during the next two or three months until conditions improve with the next harvest. The non producers and industrial workers living in large cities and urban areas will find it extremely difficult to meet their requirements of rice if the existing scale of ration were not be continued. The continuance of the 7 ozs ration will have the desired stabilizing effect on the price in the open market. Otherwise the open market prices may shoot up quickly and get out of control and then it will be a difficult task to improve matters. In the circumstances, the Board agrees with the Collectors and recommends the continuance of the existing scale of 7 ozs rice ration per adult per day issued through fairprise shops at least for the next two months (i.e.) July and August 52, at the end of which the position may be reviewed once again.

The Board requests orders on its recommendation.

x x x
for Secretary.

To
The Secretary to the Government,
Food and Agriculture Department,
Fort Saint George, Madras.

/True Copy/.

Vn.5.10.

Food and Agriculture Department.

Copy of Memorandum No.35657 A/52, dated 11.7.52.

Sub:Civil Supplies - Food grains - Revised policy for 1952 - Issue of rice through fair price shops - Existing scale of 7 ozs. per adult per day - Continuance - Ordered.

Ref: Correspondence resting with the Board's reference No.100290 KI/52 C.S., dated 3.7.52.

The Government accept the recommendation of the Board of Revenue (Civil Supplies) and direct that the existing scale of 7 ozs. of rice ration per adult per day for rice eaters issued through fair price shops should be continued till the end of August 1952. The Board is requested to watch the stock position and offtake through the fair price shops and submit a report to the Government about the end of August as to the need for the reduction in the scale of rice ration and the quantum of reduction.

Sd/- x x x
Secretary to Government.

To The Board of Revenue (Civil Supplies).

/True Copy/.

Vn.

CS. 1 0.52

Food and Agriculture Department(a).

NOTE FOR CIRCULATION.

IN G.O.No.Ms.931 Food and Agriculture, dated 7.5.1952, the Government directed that the present scale of ration at 7 ozs. of rice should continue to be issued through fair price shops on the eixsting permanent ration cards until further orders, so that the consumers may not find any difficulty due to non-availability of stocks in the open market in the immediate future until free market availability is established. The Board of Revenue (CS) was asked to watch the position and submit a report to Government by the end of June 1952 as to the feasibility of reducing the scale of ration, if necessary. The Board's report since received is at pp.7-8 c.f. It is self-explanatory. For the reasons explained in para 3 of the report, the Board has recommended that the existing scale of 7 ozs. of rice per adult per day (rice eaters) issued through fair price shops may be continued at least for the next 2 months (i.e. July and August 1952) till conditions improve with the next harvest and that the position may be reviewed once again thereafter. In the circumstances explained by the Board its recommendation may perhaps be accepted and a uniform policy followed throughout the state, through the Collectors of Ramanathapuram and Tiruchirapalli have recommended a reduction to 6 ozs earlier.

The case may be circulated to M.(Fin) and C.M. for approval of the proposal at A above.

5.7.52.

Any announcement of a reduction in the scale of rice ration issued through fair price shops at this juncture will have a psychological effect and upset the free market which is just trying to find its level. We need not therefore have any decision on the question now. The Board may be asked to watch both the stock and off-take position till the end of August 1952 and send a report to Government by the 1st week of September 1952 as to the need for reduction in the scale of rice ration and the quantum of reduction.

bad

take

We may ask for a report in the last week of Aug. 1952.

x x x
5.7.1952.

I agree, It is much better to slowly abolish the fair price shops where these are no sales than reduce the 'ration' of 7 ozs now allowed. The 'ration' of 7 ozs may continue till end of August 52 as strongly recommended by the Board.

x x x
6.7.1952.

M(Fin.) C. SUBRAMANIAN.
8.7.52.

I agree to above.

Chief Minister. We must watch the off-take.

Sd./-C.RAJAGOPALACHARI,
9.7.52.

To A.S.

Orders in circulation above A draft memo. is submitted for approval.

x x x 11.7.52. x x x 11.7.52. x x x 11.7.52. x x x 11.7.52.

To A.S.

No further action is

P.T.O. ... 2

To A.S.

No further action is now called for. The papers may be recorded as a G.Os with a C.B. entry against 1.9.52 with reference to 'A' on p.9 c.f.

x x x
21.7.52.

x x x
22.7.52.

/True Copy/.

Vn.5.10.
5.10.

Extracts from Note file. FOOD and Agriculture Department.

G.O.Ms.No.1184. dated 23rd July 1952.

Civil Supplies - Foodgrains - Revised Food Policy for 1952 - Issue of rice through fair price shops - Existing scale of 7 ozs per adult per day - Continuance - Ordered - Papers Recorded.

/True Copy/.

K. Nagarajan 23.11.56

SUPERINTENDENT.
Madras Record Office, Madras.

Vn.5.10.